IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	Douglas Manning Simmons
Serial No. - Pending	Filing Date: January 7, 2002
Title of Application	A System and Method for Secure Distribution of Digital Products

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Preliminary Amendment

Dear Sir:

Please enter this preliminary amendment before examination of this case.

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

1. (Amended) A system [(1)] for electronically distributing reading material, comprising at least one electronic reading device [(3)] having a dedicated serial code [(19)], and storing means [(2)] for storing at least one block of digital data [(37a)] representing reading material in encrypted machine readable form and adapted to be accessed by the reading device, the block of digital data having a identification code [(28)], characterized by remote processing means [(4)] having receiving means for receiving a serial code and an identification code transmitted thereto by the [or a] reading device, decryption key generating means for generating a decryption key [(34)] in response to receipt of the serial code and the identification code, and transmitting means for transmitting a generated decryption key to the reading device, the reading device including decryption means for processing the decryption key and permitting decryption of the encrypted block of digital data, and display means [(11)] for displaying at least part of the decrypted digital data [(36b)].

2. (Amended) A system for authenticating the procurement, by a reader, of electronic reading material stored in the form of at least one block of encrypted digital data in an electronic reading device [(3)] having means for selecting a block of digital data representing required reading material, the reading device having a dedicated serial code [(19)] and the or each block of digital data being associated with an individual

identification code [(28)], characterized by remote processing means [(4)] having decryption key generating means for receiving the serial code and the identification code of a selected block of <u>digital</u> data transmitted thereto from the reading device [(3)], and for producing a decryption key [(34)] in response to receipt thereof, and transmitting means for transmitting the generated decryption key to the reading device to permit decryption of the encrypted <u>digital</u> data.

3. (Amended) The system claimed in claim 1 [or 2], wherein the remote processing means [(4)] includes means for storing an encryption data code [(24)], used to encrypt the block of digital data [(37a)], in association with the identification code of the block of digital data [(37a)] encrypted with encryption data code.

4. (Amended) The system claimed in claim 1, [2 or 3,] wherein the reading device [(3)] has a concealed reading device code [(18)] associated with its serial code [(19)], and the remote processing means [(4)] includes means for storing the concealed reading device code and its associated serial code [(19)] at the remote processing means.

5. (Amended) The system claimed in claim 4, wherein the decryption key generating means is adapted to generate the decryption key [(34)] based on the concealed reading device code [(18)] identified by the serial code [(19)] transmitted to the remote processing means.

6. (Amended) The system claimed in claim 4 [or 5], wherein the decryption key generating means is adapted to generate the decryption key [(34)] based on the encryption data code [(24)] identified by the identification code [(28)].

7. (Amended) The system claimed in claim 4, [5 or 6,] wherein the remote processing means [(4)] stores the concealed reading device code [(18)], the encryption data code [(24)] and the relevant identification code [(28)] in a secure memory area [(21)].

8. (Amended) The system claimed in [any preceding] claim 4 [to 7], wherein the decryption means of the reading device [(3)] uses the decryption key [(34)] and the reading device code [(18)] to decrypt the block of encrypted <u>digital</u> data [(37a)].

9. (Amended) The system claimed in claim 8, wherein the decryption means processes the block of encrypted digital data with the decryption key [(34)] to produce a new block of data [(36a)] in a uniquely encrypted format which is adapted to be decrypted by the concealed reading device code [(18)] in the reading device to produce human readable material for display on the display means [(11)] of the reading device [(3)].

10. (Amended) The system claimed in [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the remote processing means [(4)] includes means responsive to initial receipt of the serial code and identification code for transmitting particulars of the selected reading material to the reading device [(3)] for confirmation purposes, and wherein the decryption key generating means generates the decryption key [(34)] in response to a confirmation signal transmitted from the reading device.

11. (Amended) The system claimed in [any preceding] claim 1, including means for effecting payment for the generation and transmission of the decryption key [(34)] to enable the reading device [(3)] to display at least part of the decrypted data [(36b)].

12. (Amended) The system claimed in [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the storing means [(2)] comprises a record disc, tape or other record medium on which the reading material is recorded separately from the reading device.

13. (Amended) The system claimed in [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the [or each] reading device [(3)] forms part of a wired communication system and/or a wireless communication system.

14. (Amended) The system claimed in [any preceding] claim 1, including means for entering a user identification code on the [or each] reading device [(3)] and verification means for verifying the user identification code.

15. (Amended) The system claimed in [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the [or each] reading device [(3)] includes a receiver for receiving a second block of digital data via a wireless communication system.

16. (Amended) The system claimed in claim 15, wherein the second block of digital data comprises information to update information contained in the first block of data [(37a)].

17. (Amended) A method of electronically distributing reading material to readers provided with electronic reading devices [(3)] having dedicated serial codes [(19)], characterized by the steps of:

producing blocks of digital data [(37a)] representing reading material in encrypted machine readable form, each block of data having a dedicated identification code [(28)];

storing the blocks of digital data [(37a)] and identification codes in an electronic medium readable by [at] a reading device;

actuating the reading device to select the block of digital data representing the required reading material;

transmitting the serial code of the reading device and the identification code of the selected block of digital data to a remote processing station [(4)];

processing the codes at the remote station to generate a decryption key [(34)];

transmitting the decryption key to the reading device;

processing the encrypted block of digital data in conjunction with the decryption key to permit decryption of the digital data; and

displaying at least part of the decrypted block of digital data [(36b)].

18. (Amended) A method of authenticating the procurement by a reader of reading material stored in the form of a block of encrypted digital data in an electronic reading device [(3)] having a dedicated serial code [(19)], characterized by the steps of

providing [the] blocks of digital data [(37a)] with dedicated identification codes [(28)],

selecting with [the] an electronic reading device the block of data representing the required reading material,

transmitting the serial code of the reading device and the identification code of the selected block of data to a remote processing station [(4)];

processing the codes at the remote station to generate a decryption key [(34)], and

transmitting the decryption key to the reading device.

19. (Amended) The method claimed in claim 17 [or 18], wherein an encryption data code [(24)] used for encrypting the digital data [(37a)] is stored at the remote processing station and the relevant encryption data code is identified in response to the transmission to the station of the identification code associated with the selected block of digital data.

20. (Amended) The method claimed in claim 19, including storing in the [or each] reading device [(3)] and at the remote processing station [(4)], a concealed reading device code [(18)] corresponding to the serial code [(19)] of the [or each] reading device.

21. (Amended) The method claimed in claim 20, wherein the relevant concealed reading device code [(18)] is identified at the remote processing station in response to the transmission thereto of the corresponding reading device serial code [(19)].

22. (Amended) The method claimed in claim 20 [or 21], wherein the decryption key [(34)] is generated based on the concealed reading device code [(18)] identified by the serial code [(19)] transmitted to the remote processing station.

23. (Amended) The method claimed in claim 19, [20, 21 or 22,] wherein the decryption key [(34)] is generated based on the encryption data code [(24)] identified by the identification code [(28)] transmitted to the remote processing station.

24. (Amended) A method claimed in claim 20, [21, 22 or 23,] wherein the block of encrypted digital data is decrypted at the reading device [(3)] using the decryption key [(34)] and the concealed reading device code [(18)].

25. (Amended) A method claimed in claim 24, wherein the block of encrypted digital data is processed with the decryption key [(34)] to produce a new block of data [(36a)] in a uniquely encrypted format which is decrypted by the concealed reading device code [(18)] to produce human readable material for display.

26. (Amended) The method claimed in [any preceding] claim 17 [to 25], wherein initially upon transmission of a serial code [(19)] and the identification code [(28)] relating to the selected block of digital data, the remote processing station transmits particulars of the corresponding reading material to the reading device, and wherein the decryption key [(34)] is generated in response to a confirmation signal transmitted from the reading device.

Page 7
Applicant: Douglas Manning Simmons
January 7, 2002

In the Abstract

(Amended) Books which are to be read on portable electronic reading devices [(3)] are distributed to readers on pre-recorded mini-discs [(2)]. Each book is distributed in encrypted machine readable form and has a unique identification code [(28)] and each reading device has a unique serial code [(19)]. When a mini-disc is inserted into a reading device and a reader chooses a book title, the reading device transmits its serial code and the identification code of the encrypted book to a control computer [(4)]. The control computer processes the codes to generate a decryption key [(34)] from the serial code and the identification code and transmits the decryption key to the reading device which is thereby enabled to decrypt the encrypted book and display the pages of the book in human readable form.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen P. McNamara, Registration No. 32,745
Attorney for Applicant
ST.ONGE STEWARD JOHNSTON & REENS LLC
986 Bedford Street
Stamford, CT 06905-5619
203 324-6155

Clean Version of Replacement Claims and Abstract

1. A system for electronically distributing reading material, comprising at least one electronic reading device having a dedicated serial code, and storing means for storing at least one block of digital data representing reading material in encrypted machine readable form and adapted to be accessed by the reading device, the block of digital data having a identification code, characterized by remote processing means having receiving means for receiving a serial code and an identification code transmitted thereto by the reading device, decryption key generating means for generating a decryption key in response to receipt of the serial code and the identification code, and transmitting means for transmitting a generated decryption key to the reading device, the reading device including decryption means for processing the decryption key and permitting decryption of the encrypted block of digital data, and display means for displaying at least part of the decrypted digital data.

2. A system for authenticating the procurement, by a reader, of electronic reading material stored in the form of at least one block of encrypted digital data in an electronic reading device having means for selecting a block of digital data representing required reading material, the reading device having a dedicated serial code and the or each block of digital data being associated with an individual identification code, characterized by remote processing means having decryption key generating means for receiving the serial code and the identification code of a selected block of digital data transmitted thereto from the reading device, and for producing a decryption key in response to receipt thereof, and transmitting means for transmitting the generated decryption key to the reading device to permit decryption of the encrypted digital data.

3. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the remote processing means includes means for storing an encryption data code, used to encrypt the block of digital data, in association with the identification code of the block of digital data encrypted with encryption data code.

4. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the reading device has a concealed reading device code associated with its serial code, and the remote processing means includes means for storing the concealed reading device code and its associated serial code at the remote processing means.

5. The system claimed in claim 4, wherein the decryption key generating means is adapted to generate the decryption key based on the concealed reading device code identified by the serial code transmitted to the remote processing means.

6. The system claimed in claim 4, wherein the decryption key generating means is adapted to generate the decryption key based on the encryption data code identified by the identification code.

7. The system claimed in claim 4, wherein the remote processing means stores the concealed reading device code, the encryption data code and the relevant identification code in a secure memory area.

8. The system claimed in claim 4, wherein the decryption means of the reading device uses the decryption key and the reading device code to decrypt the block of encrypted digital data.

9. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the decryption means processes the block of encrypted digital data with the decryption key to produce a new block of data in a uniquely encrypted format which is adapted to be decrypted by the concealed reading device code in the reading device to produce human readable material for display on the display means of the reading device.

10. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the remote processing means includes means responsive to initial receipt of the serial code and identification code for transmitting particulars of the selected reading material to the reading device for confirmation purposes, and wherein the decryption key generating means generates

the decryption key in response to a confirmation signal transmitted from the reading device.

11. The system claimed in claim 1, including means for effecting payment for the generation and transmission of the decryption key to enable the reading device to display at least part of the decrypted data.

12. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the storing means comprises a record disc, tape or other record medium on which the reading material is recorded separately from the reading device.

13. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the reading device forms part of a wired communication system and/or a wireless communication system.

14. The system claimed in claim 1, including means for entering a user identification code on the reading device and verification means for verifying the user identification code.

15. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the reading device includes a receiver for receiving a second block of digital data via a wireless communication system.

16. The system claimed in claim 15, wherein the second block of digital data comprises information to update information contained in the first block of data.

17. A method of electronically distributing reading material to readers provided with electronic reading devices having dedicated serial codes, characterized by the steps of:

producing blocks of digital data representing reading material in encrypted machine readable form, each block of data having a dedicated identification code;

storing the blocks of digital data and identification codes in an electronic medium readable by a reading device;

actuating the reading device to select the block of digital data representing the required reading material;

transmitting the serial code of the reading device and the identification code of the selected block of digital data to a remote processing station;

processing the codes at the remote station to generate a decryption key;

transmitting the decryption key to the reading device;

processing the encrypted block of digital data in conjunction with the decryption key to permit decryption of the digital data; and

displaying at least part of the decrypted block of digital data.

18. A method of authenticating the procurement by a reader of reading material stored in the form of a block of encrypted digital data in an electronic reading device having a dedicated serial code, characterized by the steps of

providing blocks of digital data with dedicated identification codes,

selecting with an electronic reading device the block of data representing the required reading material,

transmitting the serial code of the reading device and the identification code of the selected block of data to a remote processing station;

processing the codes at the remote station to generate a decryption key, and

transmitting the decryption key to the reading device.

19. The method claimed in claim 17, wherein an encryption data code used for encrypting the digital data is stored at the remote processing station and the relevant encryption data code is identified in response to the transmission to the station of the identification code associated with the selected block of digital data.

20. The method claimed in claim 19, including storing in the reading device and at the remote processing station, a concealed reading device code corresponding to the serial code of the reading device.

21. The method claimed in claim 20, wherein the relevant concealed reading device code is identified at the remote processing station in response to the transmission thereto of the corresponding reading device serial code.

Express Mail No. EL 889 831 202 US

22. The method claimed in claim 20, wherein the decryption key is generated based on the concealed reading device code identified by the serial code transmitted to the remote processing station.

23. The method claimed in claim 19, wherein the decryption key is generated based on the encryption data code identified by the identification code transmitted to the remote processing station.

24. A method claimed in claim 20, wherein the block of encrypted digital data is decrypted at the reading device using the decryption key and the concealed reading device code.

25. A method claimed in claim 24, wherein the block of encrypted digital data is processed with the decryption key to produce a new block of data in a uniquely encrypted format which is decrypted by the concealed reading device code to produce human readable material for display.

26. The method claimed in claim 17, wherein initially upon transmission of a serial code and the identification code relating to the selected block of digital data, the remote processing station transmits particulars of the corresponding reading material to the reading device, and wherein the decryption key is generated in response to a confirmation signal transmitted from the reading device.

ABSTRACT

Books which are to be read on portable electronic reading devices are distributed to readers on pre-recorded mini-discs. Each book is distributed in encrypted machine readable form and has a unique identification code and each reading device has a unique serial code. When a mini-disc is inserted into a reading device and a reader chooses a book title, the reading device transmits its serial code and the identification code of the encrypted book to a control computer. The control computer processes the codes to generate a decryption key from the serial code and the identification code and transmits the decryption key to the reading device which is thereby enabled to decrypt the encrypted book and display the pages of the book in human readable form.

Express Mail No. EL 889 831 202 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	Douglas Manning Simmons
Serial No. - Pending	January 7, 2002
Title of Application:	A System and Method for Secure Distribution of Digital Products

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Cover Sheet For Three Sheets Of Drawings

Attorney for Applicant
Stephen P. McNamara, Registration No. 32,745
ST.ONGE STEWARD JOHNSTON & REENS LLC
986 Bedford Street
Stamford, CT 06905-5619
203 324-6155

Express Mail Label No. EL 889 831 202 US